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AGRICULTURE

CROPS AND MARKETS

World Summaries CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

APRIL 17, 1958

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WORLD HARD FIBER PRODUCTION LEVELED OFF IN 1957

Expansion in world production of hard fibers ended in 1956, according to preliminary estimates for 1957 just compiled.

Combined production of the 3 principal hard fibers - sisal, henequen, and abaca - estimated at 1,677.0 million pounds in 1957 was a trifle less than the 1,682.6 million in 1956. Production in both years, however, was well above that of years of the preceding decade. The 1957 output was 44 percent more than the 1935-39 average prewar production and 62 percent more than that of the early post-war years of 1946-50.

The average hard fiber production in 1946-50 was only 1,036.7 million pounds, mainly because of the almost complete destruction of the sisal and abaca industries in Indonesia and the Philippines during World War II. Recovery has been slow in these areas. Total production in other parts of the world has increased rapidly, however, because of expanding sisal cultivation stimulated by the period of high prices preceding 1952.

The rise in sisal production was small in 1957 compared with the rate of increase in preceding years. Plantings have not been maintained recently because of falling prices beginning in 1952. Both abaca and henequen production were somewhat less in 1957 than in the preceding year. Compared with 1935-39, sisal has increased by 108 percent to more than double the earlier average, henequen has increased by 13 percent, but abaca has decreased by 27 percent.

Hard fibers are grown mainly for export as raw fibers. Cultivation is mostly in tropical and semi-tropical regions. Most of the manufacture of cordage, bags, and carpets is in Europe, the United States, and Japan.

The world supply of sisal and henequen continues to increase faster than demand, and exports have begun to lag behind production in major producing countries. Stocks generally are not held in producing countries, so any prolonged difficulties in marketing are usually soon reflected in reduced harvesting. Prices of these fibers continued in 1957 the downward trend of the preceding 5 years.

Although world demand for abaca slacked somewhat in 1957, supplies remained tight, and the market held firm. Prices averaged the highest in about 4 years.

Sisal

Sisal production as a part of total hard fiber production increased rapidly from a little more than half of the total during 1946-50 to about two-thirds in 1954. It has remained at that relative position since.

Africa continued to produce about 62 percent of the world supply of sisal, with 691.0 million pounds in 1957. Tanganyika ranks first in production both in Africa and the world. Kenya ranks second in Africa, followed closely by Angola, then Mozambique.

HARD FIBERS: World production by calendar years, averages 1935-39 and 1946-50, and years 1953 through 1957

Commodity and country	Averages		Calendar years				
	1935-39*	1946-50	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/	1957 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
SISAL							
Western Hemisphere:							
Brazil.....	2/ 0.2	55.7	132.3	138.9	198.4	242.5	242.5
Haiti.....	13.9	48.0	41.5	52.9	73.0	74.4	2/ 70.0
Venezuela.....	2/ 0.2	5.9	19.8	15.7	20.0	26.5	26.5
Other 2/.....	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.7	6.0	15.5	15.1
Total.....	16.3	111.4	195.7	209.2	297.4	358.9	354.1
Africa:							
Angola.....	12.5	36.8	69.0	69.2	91.2	82.2	83.8
Belgian Congo 3/.....	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.3
French Equatorial Africa.....	-	1.1	6.2	5.5	4.4	5.5	2/ 5.5
French West Africa.....	9.3	4.2	3.3	2.2	3.4	3.3	2/ 3.3
Kenya.....	4/ 72.6	4/ 75.8	84.5	77.1	85.0	90.6	92.0
Madagascar 5/.....	5.7	6.7	21.0	37.8	25.8	22.0	2/ 22.0
Mozambique.....	32.9	38.2	48.2	52.1	59.1	2/ 60.9	2/ 64.9
Tanganyika.....	205.4	258.9	378.0	399.3	389.1	409.5	414.1
Uganda.....	4/	4/	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.4	2/ 2.6
Other 2/.....	2.3	5.0	2.9	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.5
Total.....	341.3	427.2	615.7	647.7	662.2	678.8	691.0
Asia and Oceania:							
British North Borneo.....	-	-	2.6	4.2	6.2	2.0	2/ 3.0
China, Taiwan.....	2/ 1.2	3.0	1.5	2.2	2.4	2.7	2/ 2.5
Indonesia.....	180.9	5.0	54.5	2/ 61.8	2/ 73.7	74.3	2/ 72.1
Other 2/.....	0.4	2.5	1.7	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.7
Total.....	182.5	10.5	60.3	69.4	83.5	79.9	78.3
Total sisal.....	540.1	549.2	871.7	926.3	1,043.1	1,117.6	1,123.4
ABACA							
Western Hemisphere:							
Costa Rica.....	-	7.7	11.5	7.3	1.6	0	3.5
Guatemala.....	-	7.8	9.3	6.4	4.9	2.0	3.9
Honduras.....	-	5.8	4.6	2.7	6.8	5.0	5.4
Panama.....	-	7.6	6.3	3.2	3.8	0	0
Other 2/.....	-	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total.....	-	29.2	31.8	19.7	17.2	7.2	13.0
Asia and Africa:							
British North Borneo.....	2/ 4.0	1.2	2.6	4.2	6.0	4.5	2/ 4.0
Indonesia.....	8.2	3.8	6.0	2/ 5.5	2/ 5.0	3.6	0.8
Philippines 6/.....	373.8	170.8	244.6	220.9	235.9	274.9	262.6
Other 2/.....	-	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.4
Total.....	386.0	176.5	250.8	231.2	247.6	283.2	267.8
Total abaca.....	386.0	205.7	282.6	250.9	264.8	290.4	280.8
HENEQUEN							
Mexico.....	204.0	243.9	201.1	231.0	241.8	245.1	240.3
Cuba.....	30.5	31.1	25.5	31.7	19.3	22.9	25.4
El Salvador.....	6.6	6.4	2/ 5.5	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.6
Other 2/.....	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.5
Total henequen.....	241.2	281.8	232.5	268.3	266.6	274.6	272.8
Total sisal, abaca, and henequen.....	1,167.3	1,036.7	1,386.8	1,445.5	1,574.5	1,682.6	1,677.0

*The 1934-38 average, which is more representative of pre-war levels of hard fibers production, can be obtained by reference to previous publications in this series. Hereafter, the 1935-39 average will be used to conform to usual practice in other government publications.

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Foreign Agricultural Service estimates based on incomplete data.

3/ Includes Ruanda Urundi.

4/ Kenya includes Uganda.

5/ Includes Comoro Island.

6/ Data include only fiber inspected by the Philippine Fiber Inspection Service and represent generally only 90 to 95 percent of the total Philippine production. Converted at 278.88 pounds to the bale.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official estimates of foreign governments, reports of U.S.D.A. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service Officers, and estimates based on exports or other available pertinent information.

Total African production of sisal in 1957 was larger than in 1956 by about 12 million pounds. Most producing areas reported increases. Although Tanganyikan production suffered in early months of 1957 from prolonged drought, production for the whole year slightly exceeded 1956.

Western Hemisphere sisal production is confined largely to South America, principally Brazil and Venezuela, and to Haiti. The Western Hemisphere ranks second to Africa in production with 354.1 million pounds, or 31 percent of the world total, in 1957. Brazil accounts for most of this, and ranks second only to Tanganyika in its share of total world output. The United States is the principal market for Western Hemisphere sisal.

Asia produces 7 percent of the world's sisal, with 78.3 million pounds in 1957. The largest producer in Asia is Indonesia, which on a world basis ranked second to Tanganyika in 1935-39. The Indonesian industry was almost destroyed during World War II, and has been besieged by difficulties during the past decade. Military action, political uncertainties, and a 6-year period of declining world hard fiber prices have all seriously hampered recovery of the fiber estates. Indonesia has dropped to fifth place among all producing countries. The future looks discouraging to growers, and a sizable decrease in sisal output is expected within the next few years.

Abaca

World production of abaca is estimated at 280.8 million pounds in 1957, compared with 290.4 million in 1956. Average production was 282.7 million pounds in 1951-55 and 205.7 million in 1946-50. Current production is only 73 percent of the prewar (1935-39) average.

Asia accounts for most of the world's abaca, with the Philippine Republic as the only major producing country. The Republic supplies nine-tenths of the world's abaca. The 262.6 million pounds produced in 1957 is only slightly smaller than the postwar peak of 274.9 million pounds in 1956. The decrease was due to a large drop in the Davao area (Southern Mindanao) where mosaic disease is a serious problem. Production in each of the last 2 years is much smaller than the 1935-39 prewar average of 373.8 million pounds, but compares favorably with the early postwar average of 170.8 million pounds in 1946-50.

Heneguen

The 1957 heneguen production of 272.8 million pounds is slightly smaller than in 1956, but it exceeds the average of 254.2 million pounds in 1951-55, and the prewar average of 241.2 million pounds in 1935-39. Mexico accounts for 88 percent of the total, and Cuba and El Salvador account for most of the remainder. Falling prices have been discouraging to growers in recent years.

WORLD OUTPUT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS,
FOURTH QUARTER AND ANNUAL, 1957Fourth Quarter

Over-all factory output of dairy products in the fourth quarter of 1957 was moderately higher than for the same quarter of 1956. Conditions were favorable for milk production in most countries of Western Europe, and also in New Zealand. Conditions were less satisfactory in Australia and milk production declined sharply. In both Canada and the United States, milk production was higher than a year earlier.

Butter production increased approximately 5 percent over the corresponding quarter of 1956. Output was up in most of the principal producing countries of Western Europe except Norway, where production declined, and Finland, where output was maintained at the 1956 level. In the Southern Hemisphere, only New Zealand reported a gain.

Factory cheese production in the fourth quarter, 1957 rose 9 percent over comparable 1956. Output increased in the Netherlands, France, Denmark, Switzerland and the United States, but declined in Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada. There was little change in New Zealand.

Output of canned milk was down one percent. France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Argentina and Australia increased their production. Output was lower in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

Dried milk production showed the biggest gain, rising 13 percent over the same period of 1956. Output was up in the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Canada and the United States, but down in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Argentina and Australia.

Prospects for dairy production appear good in New Zealand. Some improvement in conditions in Australia should benefit milk production.

Annual

Over-all output of dairy products in 1957 ran somewhat above 1956. Favorable production conditions, higher yield per cow, and an increase in cow numbers in some countries were the principal contributing factors. Most of the increased production was directed into manufacturing.

FACTORY DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries, Oct.-Dec. 1957 (preliminary) with comparisons

Country and Product	Average		Total		1956		1957		Oct.-Dec. 1957 compared with Oct.-Dec. 1956								
	1946-50		1956		Total 1957		Oct.-Dec. 1956		Jan.-Mar. 1957		Apr.-June 1957		July-Sept. 1957		Oct.-Dec. 1957		Percent
	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds			
Butter:																	
Canada	1/ 254,774	277,868	2/ 305,431	305,562	2/ 52,087	2/ 29,175	83,554	2/ 115,080	2/ 96,152	2/ 117,082	2/ 117,082	63,153	63,153	121	104	121	
United States	1,705,240	1,301,830	2/ 1,409,868	1,421,740	2/ 288,368	351,765	33,363	2/ 47,597	441,935	327,400	327,400	300,640	300,640	104	104	104	
Belgium	46,179	55,353	2/ 102,192	106,118													
Denmark	400,660	318,697	2/ 364,200	383,600	203,000	99,500	152,000	152,000	154,700	154,700	218,200	218,200	107	107	107	107	
Finland	61,287	114,836	2/ 174,000	158,921	2/ 31,142	33,363	99,500	152,000	154,700	154,700	218,200	218,200	107	107	107	107	
France	220,000	492,188	5/ 560,000	685,392	140,878	134,505	196,416	196,416	196,416	192,896	161,575	161,575	115	115	115	115	
Germany, Fed. Republic of	5/ 560,000	685,392	685,392	685,392	140,878	134,505	196,416	196,416	196,416	192,896	161,575	161,575	115	115	115	115	
Ireland	89,400	68,548	2/ 96,342	109,458	19,061	19,061	38,401	38,401	38,401	2/ 44,577	19,884	19,884	104	104	104	104	
Netherlands	201,000	155,620	2/ 169,093	167,770	32,848	22,707	53,572	53,572	54,894	54,894	36,597	36,597	111	111	111	111	
Norway	24,930	20,049	2/ 27,558	34,603	3,867	7,406	14,895	14,895	9,225	9,225	3,077	3,077	80	80	80	80	
Sweden	152,769	216,442	2/ 181,670	193,399	35,431	36,301	37,992	37,992	37,992	37,992	37,992	37,992	122	122	122	122	
Switzerland	57,760	36,949	2/ 59,745	8/ 63,052	2/ 9,560	12,335	17,578	17,578	17,578	17,578	17,578	17,578	122	122	122	122	
United Kingdom	44,200	23,529	2/ 56,224	76,272	12,992	9,856	32,256	32,256	32,256	18,592	18,592	15,568	15,568	120	120	120	
Argentina	65,742	100,657	2/ 145,453	120,808	2/ 23,622	2/ 26,384	117,884	117,884	117,884	117,884	117,884	117,884	107	107	107	107	
Union So. Africa	2/ 27,725	44,845	2/ 84,020	397,069	162,781	130,167	130,167	130,167	130,167	130,167	130,167	130,167	107	107	107	107	
Australia	6/ 415,250	334,371	2/ 454,762	469,875	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	107	107	107	107	
New Zealand	6/ 366,912	346,095	2/ 455,057	469,875	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	2/ 188,758	107	107	107	107	
Cheese:																	
Canada	1/ 119,924	114,329	2/ 84,747	95,635	2/ 17,418	2/ 7,059	2/ 32,512	2/ 32,512	2/ 32,512	2/ 38,865	2/ 38,865	17,199	17,199	99	99	99	
United States	623,234	1,156,005	2/ 1,386,650	1,408,795	2/ 284,976	312,830	312,830	312,830	312,830	312,830	312,830	286,430	286,430	101	101	101	
Denmark	68,820	123,634	2/ 185,848	215,830	2/ 40,345	42,770	70,547	70,547	70,547	59,083	59,083	43,430	43,430	108	108	108	
France	11/ 523,513	491,326	5/ 595,000	705,500	196,000	99,400	168,000	168,000	168,000	176,400	176,400	261,700	261,700	134	134	134	
Italy	523,513	491,326	2/ 338,406	357,145	50,753	47,619	123,016	123,016	123,016	112,655	112,655	73,855	73,855	126	126	126	
Netherlands	39,067	35,564	2/ 71,990	67,899	11,770	13,230	23,470	23,470	23,470	20,251	20,251	10,948	10,948	93	93	93	
Norway	76,059	115,005	2/ 111,623	115,060	20,214	23,283	39,955	39,955	39,955	33,233	33,233	18,589	18,589	92	92	92	
Sweden	111,729	107,232	2/ 132,717	139,772	2/ 22,240	20,584	40,483	40,483	40,483	43,671	43,671	25,935	25,935	117	117	117	
Switzerland	109,000	69,888	2/ 223,776	244,608	49,728	55,328	82,432	82,432	82,432	64,960	64,960	41,888	41,888	84	84	84	
United Kingdom	67,873	203,830	2/ 275,019	244,608	79,537	2/ 68,803	2/ 68,803	2/ 68,803	2/ 68,803	55,415	55,415	—	—	—	—	—	
Argentina	2/ 10,195	17,967	2/ 27,857	7,695	7,695	7,695	5,321	5,321	5,321	5,321	5,321	—	—	—	—	—	
Union So. Africa	2/ 10,195	17,967	2/ 27,857	7,695	7,695	7,695	5,321	5,321	5,321	5,321	5,321	—	—	—	—	—	
Australia	6/ 48,400	98,596	2/ 96,990	85,785	41,737	23,029	20,630	20,630	20,630	20,630	20,630	30,917	30,917	74	74	74	
New Zealand	6/ 210,911	216,842	2/ 214,036	217,135	2/ 92,142	2/ 66,626	21,817	21,817	21,817	36,252	36,252	92,440	92,440	100	100	100	

Canned Milk:

Canada 14/	1/ 104,335	266,532	2/ 335,333	344,654	2/ 60,679	2/ 50,594	2/ 124,906	2/ 117,566	51,588
United States 15/	1,970,189	3,170,576	2/ 2,609,866	2,521,130	2/ 485,159	2/ 567,405	2/ 853,250	2/ 646,150	454,325
Cuba	16/ 32,564	36,655	75,649	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark	40,785	58,701	58,299	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	17/ 28,953	16/ 57,984	4/ 110,200	4/ 130,100	4/ 30,100	4/ 26,500	4/ 27,300	4/ 28,200	4/ 48,100
Germany, Fed. Republic of:	11/	11/	2/ 541,392	625,198	87,716	96,722	215,541	187,090	125,845
Netherlands	309,952	181,222	2/ 644,625	619,272	146,606	136,685	186,750	164,463	131,394
Switzerland	14,198	13,031	423,808	407,904	74,144	96,320	176,960	71,232	63,392
United Kingdom	378,560	219,914	22,787	22,787	6,415	2/ 5,829	2/ 4,817	5,597	6,544
Argentina	18/ 3,159	16/ 11,914	26,063	156,798	63,121	41,549	2/ 19,428	31,097	64,724
Australia	6/ 41,894	132,745	2/ 145,717	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Zealand	6/ 11,273	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dried Milk: 19/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada 20/	1/ 26,079	72,686	2/ 99,549	142,885	2/ 16,605	2/ 11,601	2/ 42,551	2/ 51,770	36,963
United States 21/	1/ 637,407	1,704,061	2/ 1,671,729	1,805,810	2/ 325,273	2/ 437,750	2/ 622,300	2/ 386,300	359,460
Belgium	5,500	6,607	2/ 41,480	55,465	3,791	2,870	21,857	4/ 24,521	4/ 6,217
Denmark	2,205	16,866	40,296	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	17/ 7,685	16/ 3,308	4/ 22,000	4/ 33,100	—	4/ 5,000	4/ 6,600	4/ 7,300	4/ 14,200
Germany, Fed. Republic of:	11/	11/	2/ 102,842	127,732	17,075	15,466	2/ 44,168	40,536	27,562
Netherlands	56,438	54,468	136,906	149,692	6,614	11,023	74,295	57,981	6,593
Sweden	1,351	24,566	31,686	39,147	4,425	7,099	13,528	12,981	5,539
Switzerland	7,187	10,847	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom	43,098	73,848	154,784	2/ 154,112	34,496	29,568	58,464	2/ 33,600	32,480
Argentina	18/ 3,977	16/ 14,070	25,196	23,519	8,999	2/ 7,401	2/ 4,224	3,678	8,216
Australia	6/ 16,691	54,235	2/ 110,483	102,090	44,794	2/ 26,506	2/ 13,059	22,826	39,639
New Zealand	22/ 17,420	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1/ Average 1935-39. 2/ Revised. 3/ Average 1948-50. 4/ Estimated. 5/ Average 1935-38. 6/ Production year ending June 30. 7/ Total production. 8/ Annual production figures more complete than monthly figures used in quarterly data. 9/ Production year ending August 31. 10/ Cheddar cheese only. 11/ Not available. 12/ Total cheese and includes cheese made from the milk of sheep and goats. 13/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of goats. 14/ Both bulk and case goods. 15/ Evaporated whole and condensed whole case goods only. 16/ Less than a 5-year average. 17/ For 1937. 18/ For 1939. 19/ Dried whole milk and nonfat solids production. 20/ Approximately 1.8 to 2.0 million pounds of animal feed now being included in production data; animal feed production not available and not included for 1935-39 period. 21/ Includes dried milk for animal feeding. 22/ For 1938.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad and other information.

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE REDUCED

Mediterranean Basin production of olive oil for the 1957-58 marketing season is estimated now at nearly 1.1 million short tons by the Foreign Agricultural Service. The estimate is a reduction of 9 percent from the forecast of almost 1.2 million tons made in December 1957, and is 8 percent under the estimate for 1956-57. These are estimates of production from crushing, including non-commercial output; sulphur oil extracted from olive residue by solvent methods is excluded.

Olive oil production in the Mediterranean Basin countries comprises about 98 percent of the world outturn. And of the output in the Mediterranean area, over four-fifths is in Europe, and 8 to 10 percent in Africa. A smaller share is produced in the Middle East.

Total European olive oil production is estimated at 918,500 short tons, or 5 percent above the 876,000 tons of 1956-57. The 1957-58 production estimates for all European olive oil producing countries, with the exception of Yugoslavia, have been reduced since the December report. In general, the pre-harvest drought conditions and the later Dacus fly damage were responsible for the reported reductions in output. The reduced estimates for Europe and for Lebanon have more than offset increases for Turkey and Libya.

Olive oil production in France is expected now to total no more than 1,500 short tons for 1957-58. Dry weather in August caused much of the fruit to fall. Much of the remaining fruit was badly damaged by the Dacus fly. As a result of the lower production estimate, it is expected that net imports of olive oil into France during 1958 will equal the 20,800 short tons of 1957.

In Greece, the Dacus fly reportedly reduced production, primarily in Crete and the Ionian Islands. In areas other than Crete, the quality of the 1957-58 crop is above average. Despite the reduced production estimate for the current season, there is a sizable surplus of olive oil in Greece. Through January 31, 1958, under the government support program, 6,050 short tons of 1956-57 crop olive oil had been purchased, and of the 1957-58 crop oil 5,200 tons had been purchased through February 22. By removal of such quantities from the market, the government expects to halt the downward trend of domestic olive oil prices.

Estimates of 1957-58 olive oil production in Italy have varied greatly. Reductions in output estimates followed reports of cold weather and excessive rains in the south during the latter part of the harvesting season. To strengthen olive oil prices during the current season, the Italian Government is giving financial aid to the voluntary pooling of 33,000 short tons of olive oil. Recently, a bill has been approved which will increase this pool to 38,500 tons.

OLIVE OIL 1/: Mediterranean Basin, estimated production,
averages 1935-39 and 1950-53, annual 1954-57

Country	Average		1954		1955		1956 <u>2/</u>		1957 <u>2/</u>	
	1935-39	1950-53	1954-57 <u>2/</u>							
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Europe:										
France.....	8.0	10.3	5.3		7.0		3.5		1.5	
Greece.....	131.5	112.3	144.7		115.0		158.5		180.5	
Italy.....	256.0	297.5	244.5		200.0		187.5		275.5	
Portugal.....	64.0	88.2	84.6		75.0		102.5		106.0	
Spain.....	3/ 357.4	393.0	348.8		290.0		420.0		350.0	
Yugoslavia.....	3/ 5.9	1.9	4.7		.7		4.0		5.0	
Total.....	822.8	903.2	832.6		687.7		876.0		918.5	
Middle East:										
Israel.....	4/ 7.0	1.4	2.5		.6		4.5		1.0	
Syria.....	(12.5	5.6	5.2		4.4		8.2		4.4	
Lebanon.....	(8.3	7.6		3.8		15.0		3.3	
Turkey.....	44.0	47.5	65.5		38.3		98.5		39.6	
Total.....	63.5	62.8	80.8		47.1		126.2		48.3	
Africa:										
Algeria.....	20.0	26.4	26.5		20.0		29.0		25.0	
Morocco <u>5/</u>	10.3	18.0	22.7		15.0		38.0		10.0	
Tunisia.....	49.3	55.6	60.5		24.0		100.0		60.0	
Libya.....	2.6	6.4	6.7		3.7		3.0		17.5	
Total.....	82.2	106.4	116.4		62.7		170.0		112.5	
Total Mediterranean	968.5	1,072.4	1,029.8		797.5		1,172.2		1,079.3	

1/ Total oil pressed in marketing season beginning October of year shown; excludes oil extracted from residue.
2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of less than 5 years. 4/ Territory formerly known as Palestine. 5/ Figures refer only to territory formerly known as French Morocco.

Estimates of production in Portugal now indicate a total of only 106,000 short tons for 1957-58, or about 4 percent larger than last season. With a rising consumption of olive oil in the country, net exports in 1957-58 are not expected to exceed the 2,500 short tons of 1956-57.

Spain's 1957-58 olive oil crop estimate has been reduced to 350,000 short tons, because of unseasonably dry weather prior to harvest and an early October frost in the largest producing areas. The effects of such conditions were not apparent until the bulk of the harvesting had been completed. The latest production estimates for Spain also vary considerably, and the 350,000 tons estimated for 1957-58 is subject to further revision after official data on crushings become available. Rising vegetable oil consumption and the need for higher stock levels indicate that exports of Spanish olive oil may not exceed the 25,000 short tons shipped in 1956-57 despite the government's higher export target of 55,000 tons. Imports of vegetable oils this season may exceed by at least one-fourth the 132,000 tons imported in 1956-57.

The Middle East production total for 1957-58 is revised downward, as the decline in Lebanon's production estimate more than offsets the rise in Turkey's estimate. Middle East production for the off-year 1957-58 is now estimated at 48,300 tons, or less than 40 percent of the 1956-57 production level.

The production estimates for North Africa warrant revision in the case of Libya only. Libya is experiencing a bumper crop, for which estimates range as high as 23,000 tons. In the case of French North African areas estimates are highly variable and, to date, there appears to be no reason to alter the estimates of last December.

WHALE OIL PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1958; SPERM OIL PRODUCTION UP

World whale oil production in 1958 is forecast by the Foreign Agricultural Service at 430,000 short tons. This is 10,000 tons less than was produced in 1957. Sperm oil production, however, forecast at 115,000 tons, represents a gain of 15 percent from last year.

A sharp decline in Norwegian output accounts for the expected decline in whale oil production. Norway had a poor Antarctic season. Moreover, the South Georgia shore station at Husvik Harbour, which in previous years had been operated by Norwegian interests, did not participate in Antarctic whaling this season. All the other major producing countries are expected to produce at least as much whale oil this year as in 1957. In fact, Japan and the Soviet Union are expected to have substantial increases from 1957.

Antarctic pelagic whaling (including the output of the 2 South Georgia shore stations that were in operation in the 1957-58 season) again accounted for about 85 percent of the forecasted 1958 whale oil outturn. The Antarctic season began at midnight January 6 and ended at midnight March 16, 69 days later. The previous season also began and ended on the same dates. The total catch this year exceeded the internationally agreed limit of 14,500 blue whale units by 354 units. For the 1956-57 season the agreed limit was also 14,500 units and the catch was 14,734 units.

Table 1.--WHALE AND SPERM OIL: Estimated world production by major producing country, annual 1956-58

Country	Whale oil			Sperm oil		
	1956 <u>1/</u>	1957 <u>2/</u>	1958 <u>3/</u>	1956 <u>1/</u>	1957 <u>2/</u>	1958 <u>3/</u>
	- - - - - <u>Short tons</u> - - - - -					
Norway.....	135	: 170	: 137	: 25	: 19	: 24
Japan.....	78	: 94	: 112	: 33	: 35	: 41
United Kingdom.....	76	: 66	: 67	: 12	: 5	: 7
Netherlands.....	16	: 16	: 19	: 3	: 1	: 2
Union of South Africa.....	23	: 23	: 7	: 8	: 4	: 3
Soviet Union.....	30	: 27	: 37	: 17	: 16	: 17
Panama.....	27	: ---	: ---	: 3	: ---	: ---
Australia.....	19	: 19	: 19	: <u>4/</u>	: ---	: ---
Argentina.....	8	: 9	: 14	: <u>4/</u>	: <u>4/</u>	: <u>4/</u>
Chile.....	3	: 3	: 3	: 5	: 5	: 5
Peru.....	<u>4/</u>	: ---	: ---	: 6	: 6	: 8
Portugal.....	---	: ---	: ---	: 4	: 4	: 4
Others.....	10	: 13	: 15	: 5	: 5	: 4
World total.....	425	: 440	: 430	: 121	: 100	: 115

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Forecast, production of some countries ends about September. 4/ Less than 500 tons.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

Sperm oil production in the Antarctic this season was over one-fourth greater than in the previous season. Sperm whaling in the Antarctic usually takes place before the regular whaling season opens, and the Antarctic sperm oil output accounts for some 40 to 50 percent of the total world production.

A total of 20 floating factories and 2 land stations operated in the Antarctic this season. This was the same number of floating factories as in 1956-57, but one land station less than in the last season. The floating factories used 237 catch boats, 12 more than in 1956-57. The land stations operated by the United Kingdom and Argentina operated with 8 and 12 catchers respectively.

The yield of whale oil per blue whale unit in the 1957-58 season was 122.7 barrels (22.9 tons), a sharp reduction from the previous season's yield of 127.9 barrels (23.9 tons). In 1955-56 the yield per blue whale unit was 121.6 (22.7 tons) barrels.

The 18 signatories of the International Whaling Agreement will convene the last week of June this year in The Hague. The quota of blue whale units to be taken in 1958-59 Antarctic whaling will be decided at this meeting and the information released 60 days later.

Table 2.--WHALE AND SPERM OIL: Antarctic pelagic production by expedition 1/
1956-57 and 1957-58

Country and expedition	Whale oil		Sperm oil		Total oil	
	1956-57	2/1957-58	3/1956-57	2/1957-58	3/1956-57	2/1957-58
	Short tons		Short tons		Short tons	
Norway:						
Kosmos III.....	24,199	16,108	1,452	3,080	25,651	19,188
Kosmos IV.....	23,646	16,817	2,292	2,482	25,938	19,299
Norhval.....	20,811	13,233	2,594	4,256	23,405	17,489
Pelagos.....	15,380	12,487	410	2,446	15,790	14,633
Sir James Clark Ross.....	18,655	14,811	1,362	1,316	20,017	16,127
Suderoy.....	8,199	4,937	1,781	1,338	9,980	6,275
Thorshammer.....	16,606	13,812	1,651	1,359	18,257	15,171
Thorshavet.....	18,665	21,371	4,853	3,733	23,518	25,104
Thorshovdi.....	14,335	22,491	1,898	2,986	16,233	25,477
Total.....	150,496	136,067	18,293	22,696	178,789	158,763
Japan:						
Kinjo Maru.....	14,075	13,066	2,786	3,044	16,861	16,110
Koykuyo Maru II.....	14,010	16,085	1,594	3,217	15,604	19,302
Nisshin Maru.....	21,463	17,713	3,783	4,117	25,246	21,830
Nisshin Maru II 4/.....	15,411	16,886	750	2,555	16,161	19,441
Tonan Maru.....	16,864	15,898	3,859	3,013	20,723	18,911
Tonan Maru II 5/.....	11,968	17,803	1,864	4,211	13,832	22,014
Total.....	93,791	97,451	14,636	20,157	108,427	117,608
United Kingdom:						
Balaena.....	18,973	24,740	2,576	3,201	21,549	27,941
Southern Harvester.....	19,309	18,277	482	2,441	19,791	20,718
Southern Venturer.....	18,783	10,840	2,277	1,138	21,060	11,978
Total.....	57,065	53,857	5,335	6,780	62,400	60,637
Netherlands:						
William Barendsz.....	16,359	19,382	1,223	2,362	17,582	21,744
Soviet Union:						
Slava.....	24,476	33,551	1,226	n.a.	25,702	6/33,551
Total Antarctic 1/.....	352,187	340,308	40,713	7/51,995	392,900	7/392,303

1/ Does not include production of South Georgia shore stations. 2/ Revised. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Former "Abraham Larsen" which operated as Union of South African vessel in 1956-57. 5/ Former "Matsushima Maru". 6/ Excludes sperm oil. 7/ Excludes sperm oil for the U.S.S.R.

TABLE 3.--ANTARCTIC WHALING: Equipment used, 1956-57 and 1957-58

Country	: Floating factories:		Catch boats	
	: 1956-57	: 1957-58	: 1956-57	: 1957-58
Norway.....	9	9	94	94
Japan.....	5	6	54	68
United Kingdom.....	3	3	35	37
Union of South Africa ^{1/}	1	--	10	--
Netherlands.....	1	1	14	14
Soviet Union.....	1	1	18	24
Total.....	20	20	225	237

^{1/} This floating factory operated under the Japanese flag in 1957-58.

WORLD PEANUT OUTPUT SETS RECORD IN 1957

World production of peanuts in 1957 is estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service at a record 14.6 million short tons, unshelled basis. This is an increase of 5 percent from the previous record of 1956 and an increase of one-fourth from the 1950-54 average.

The estimated expansion of 633,000 tons from 1956 is attributable to record crops in 3 of the 4 major producing countries--Nigeria, French West Africa and India--and a record output in Argentina. Production in Mainland China, which ranks second to India as a producer, is believed to have declined significantly.

Peanut production in North America in 1957 was roughly one-tenth less than in the previous year as a result of smaller crops in the United States and Mexico. U. S. output declined 6 percent. Acreage picked and threshed was 11 percent larger than in 1956, but dry weather in the growing season in some areas and late rains, excessive in some sections, reduced yields. Mexico's smaller crop is attributed to reduced acreage.

The South American peanut crop, harvested largely from March to May, increased almost one-fifth from 1956. Argentina's record harvest reflected an increase of almost one-half from the previous year. As a result of large crops of both peanuts and sunflower seed, Argentina has regained its position as a net exporter of substantial quantities of edible oils. With good prices and high yields tending to make peanuts a popular crop in Argentina, acreage planted for the 1957-58 crop, now being harvested, set a new record of over 622,000 acres. Brazil's 1957 production declined 13 percent from the previous year.

PEANUTS 1/: Acreage and production in specified countries and the world, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-57

Continent and country	Acreage 2/				Production					
	Average		1955	1956	1957 3/	Average			1956	1957 3/
	1935-39	1950-54				1935-39	1950-54	1955		
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
North America:										
Mexico.....	33	136	148	150	124	12.2	77.8	89.5	92.8	71.6
United States.....	1,659	1,718	1,669	1,385	1,554	614.7	763.2	774.0	803.6	752.4
Cuba.....	---	4/24	30	37	42	5/8.4	5.5	8.8	12.1	13.2
Dominican Republic.....	---	5/68	116	113	104	4/3.8	24.0	58.1	50.1	40.3
Estimated total 6/.....	1,735	1,955	1,970	1,690	1,830	640.0	873.0	932.5	961.0	880.0
South America:										
Argentina.....	5/207	336	368	483	547	87.3	154.4	130.1	238.3	350.5
Brazil.....	---	339	411	404	425	4/14.8	160.2	204.9	199.4	173.1
Paraguay.....	5/29	31	26	26	---	5/19.4	11.5	10.5	10.5	---
Uruguay.....	5	18	19	15	19	1.2	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.7
Estimated total 6/.....	320	750	864	970	1,060	128.5	341.0	364.0	468.0	554.5
Europe:										
Italy.....	5/2	11	13	13	---	1.6	9.0	11.3	11.0	11.0
Spain.....	4/24	20	25	---	---	4/23.3	12.1	20.2	15.4	---
Estimated total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 6/.....	31	43	50	55	55	27.5	29.0	39.0	33.5	33.0
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	5/29	21	2	(7/)	(7/)	---	---	---	(7/)	(7/)
Africa:										
Egypt.....	23	29	35	36	37	17.2	23.3	31.3	32.0	34.4
Sudan.....	43	83	309	477	454	8.1	30.0	71.1	161.1	116.8
Angola.....	18	---	---	---	---	6.2	5/8/4.7	8/3.3	8/5.3	---
Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi.....	250	732	749	761	768	66.9	201.4	193.3	201.7	209.4
Cameroon.....	5/279	320	---	---	---	36.0	90.4	67.2	71.6	75.0
French Equatorial Africa.....	5/9/91	4/435	395	---	---	5/9/17.6	101.0	143.3	187.4	187.4
French West Africa.....	4/3,185	3,070	3,365	---	---	4/7/85.0	912.5	1,140.0	1,350.0	1,600.0
Gambia.....	---	5/215	---	---	---	8/58.1	73.9	95.0	97.4	100.8
Ghana.....	---	136	---	137	---	---	48.5	41.3	52.2	---

Madagascar.....	14	55	86	---	---	---	6.6	20.5	25.4	25.4	---
Mozambique.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	8/42.9	19.5	25.0	25.0	---
Nigeria and British Cameroons.....	---	---	3,500	---	---	---	5/600.0	843.0	1,100.0	850.0	1,375.0
Portuguese Guinea.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	8/28.0	9/36.7	8/29.2	8/40.9	---
Rhodesia and Nyasaland.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	135.0	150.0	157.5
Tanganyika.....	5/277	188	---	---	---	---	9/23.4	9/32.0	---	---	---
Uganda.....	5/156	340	426	---	---	---	4/78.3	183.8	201.6	---	---
Union of South Africa.....	56	445	---	---	---	---	12.0	96.0	213.6	243.1	193.5
Estimated total 6/.....	7,355	9,304	10,950	11,275	11,465	1,857.0	2,812.0	3,625.0	3,813.5	4,518.0	---
Asia:											
Israel.....	---	4	13	11	15	---	---	6.9	21.2	15.6	17.6
Turkey (Europe and Asia).....	4/3	12	15	18	30	---	5/1.9	11.5	18.0	19.0	27.6
China, Mainland.....	5/3,769	---	---	---	---	---	5/3,034.4	10/2,853.0	10/2,950.0	10/3,000.0	10/2,800.0
Burma.....	784	726	802	813	860	---	192.2	189.5	229.8	228.5	235.2
China, Taiwan.....	76	210	237	243	267	---	32.4	210.5	73.4	90.2	102.5
India.....	7,535	11,830	12,692	13,450	14,457	---	3,295.7	3,801.3	4,325.4	4,704.0	4,783.5
Indonesia.....	11/572	714	736	784	841	---	11/289.1	346.4	342.3	361.2	362.0
Japan.....	5/19	59	64	79	98	---	14.6	33.3	54.2	57.4	78.5
Philippines.....	5/19	65	71	72	---	---	4.9	18.4	19.7	20.1	---
Thailand.....	4/11	181	193	202	---	---	4/10.9	84.8	103.7	111.3	---
Estimated total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 6/.....	12,846	18,010	19,960	21,305	22,190	6,906.0	7,574.0	8,170.5	8,640.0	8,570.0	---
Oceania:											
Australia.....	5/14	21	40	34	---	---	5/6.1	12.8	20.8	16.2	9.9
Estimated total 6/.....	14	22	41	35	30	---	6.1	13.5	21.5	17.0	10.5
Estimated world total 6/.....	22,330	30,105	33,835	35,330	36,630	9,580.5	11,652.5	13,152.5	13,933.0	14,566.0	---

1/ Peanuts in the shell. Southern Hemisphere peanut crops, which are harvested from April to June, are combined with those of the Northern Hemisphere harvested from September through December of the same year. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ One year only. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 7/ Less than 500 acres and 500 tons. 8/ Exports. 9/ Commercial crop. 10/ Unofficial estimate. 11/ Java and Madura only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of U. S. Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad, and related information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

Peanut production in Africa was about one-fifth larger than in 1956 with record harvests in French West Africa and Nigeria. In French West Africa output is estimated at 1.6 million tons, about 250,000 tons or one-fifth larger than the 1956 record. The commercial crop is placed at 1.1 million short tons compared with 0.9 million tons the previous year. Total purchases this year will not be a true reflection of the commercial crop as peanuts are moving into Gambia, Portuguese Guinea and Nigeria.

French import requirements and the need for peanut oil in French Africa will provide a market for around 935,000 tons of the crop. From 140,000 to 175,000 tons may be sold on the world market with a subsidy to exporters from the peanut stabilization fund. Peanut production is increasing in French West Africa mainly because the peasant farmer has learned that with a good fixed price for peanuts he can get the greatest return from his land, labor and capital. Other reasons for the increase include the more extensive use of treated and selected seed, improved cultural methods, and the use of chemical fertilizers.

Exceptionally favorable weather in Nigeria resulted in a bumper crop estimated at almost 1.4 million short tons (in shell basis), an increase of over 60 percent from 1956. Commercial output (peanuts sold for crushing and export) is estimated at around 770,000 tons shelled basis (1,100,000 tons in shell) compared with 400,000 tons (570,000 tons in shell) sold commercially from the 1956 crop. Peanuts are moving into Northern Nigeria from the French Niger Territory, reportedly because of over-production in French West Africa, devaluation of the French franc and relatively inexpensive consumer goods in Nigeria. Peanuts from French West Africa also are moving into the Gambia where the commercial crop from actual Gambian production will be near 100,000 tons.

Peanut production in the Union of South Africa in recent years has more than doubled the 1950-54 average, but the 1957 harvest was one-fifth less than the record crop of the previous year. Likewise, production in the Sudan, where the government is encouraging peanut production for export, has expanded sharply in the last 2 years although output in 1957 was one-fourth less than the all-time high of 1956.

The slight decline in Asian production was due largely to the drop in China's outturn which was only partially offset by the gain in India. The record 1957 harvest in India was 2 percent larger than the near-record crop of 1956. High prices of peanuts and peanut oil prevailing throughout calendar 1956 were an incentive to increase acreage in 1957.

In Mainland China, the Communists have put much emphasis upon peanuts, both for oil content and export value. This has been reflected in a steady acreage expansion in recent years. However, reports indicate a reduction in 1957. In northeastern Shantung, dry spring weather hindered peanut planting. In Kwangtung, spring sowing and early growth were badly affected by floods and only 45 percent of the provincial sowing target was completed.

Even more important was the heavy flooding in mid-July in southern Shantung, northern Kiangsu and eastern Honan. The flooding, while localized, was intense in this area, where peanut-growing in China is concentrated. In view of this, and despite scattered reports of success elsewhere, such as reports of increased output in Hupeh and Kiangsi, a sharp decrease in total output to possibly 2.8 million tons, against about 3.0 million in 1956, seems likely. Communist reports show much lower yields in recent years than in the prewar period. This probably results from the inclusion of poorer land in peanut acreage.

Burma's peanut production increased 3 percent in 1957. The Government of Burma has underway a 4-year plan to expand peanut acreage and production to become self-sufficient in edible oils. While the plan went into effect in the 1956-57 crop year, expansion is not yet as great as expected.

Indonesia's peanut production in 1957 increased less than one percent from 1956, although acreage was up 7 percent.

WOOL MOVEMENT FROM SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE DECLINES

Summary

Exports of raw wool from the 5 major exporting countries of the Southern Hemisphere declined 5 percent during July-December 1957 (includes October-December for Argentina and Uruguay) from the same period of 1956. Shipments from these countries, which accounted for more than 90 percent of total world trade in wool in 1956, were lower for all countries except Australia.

There was a sharp drop in shipments from Uruguay and Argentina during the first quarter of the 1957-58 season, despite larger exportable supplies. The decline in exports from the Union of South Africa and New Zealand was less marked, but still significant. Exports from Australia were slightly higher during the first half of the 1957-58 season, but probably will be lower in the second half than a year earlier. A relatively large proportion of the Australian clip has already been sold, and the drought has reduced available supplies.

The smaller exports from the Southern Hemisphere resulted from a decline in consumption in major consuming countries, especially the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan, in the last half of 1957 and the paralysis of wool shipments from Argentina and Uruguay.

Wool prices have dropped steadily this season in contrast with the rising market trend of the previous season. Values have approached minimum floor-price levels in New Zealand and the Union of South Africa where the Wool Boards have minimum support price schemes.

WOOL: Exports from Southern Hemisphere countries, 1956-57 and 1957-58 seasons through December 1/

(Actual weight)

Principal countries of destination	Australia		New Zealand		South Africa		Argentina		Uruguay 2/		Total 5 countries	
	1956-57	1957-58	1956-57	1957-58	1956-57	1957-58	1956-57	1957-58	1956-57	1957-58	1956-57	1957-58
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
United States.....	18.3	19.0	18.3	20.8	7.8	5.3	14.5	11.1	3.1	0.2	62.0	56.4
United Kingdom.....	163.8	138.5	75.5	64.2	27.1	19.6	6.1	2.2	6.9	0.6	279.4	225.1
Canada.....	3.2	1.5	1.5	2.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	0	0	0	5.4	4.2
Japan.....	101.2	97.3	2.2	4.7	10.3	2.0	5.4	1.8	0.5	---	119.6	105.8
U.S.S.R.....	---	---	---	0.8	2.6	17.9	2.5	0	---	1.1	5.1	19.8
Continental Europe:												
France	107.6	111.1	23.0	23.5	25.7	19.8	5.1	2.0	3.4	0.3	164.8	156.7
Belgium	51.2	50.9	5.0	5.0	6.8	4.8	1.9	0.7	0.3	0.2	65.2	61.6
Germany.....	38.2	45.4	10.9	13.0	21.3	17.0	1.3	0.5	1.7	0.5	73.4	76.4
Italy.....	52.1	71.2	6.3	4.2	11.2	11.7	3.2	0.6	2.5	1.0	75.3	88.7
Netherlands.....	2.1	1.7	4.0	2.4	1.0	0.7	4.2	1.0	14.5	1.0	25.8	6.8
Other.....	24.3	40.9	8.5	8.0	3.8	3.9	0.3	0.2	1.6	2.6	38.5	55.6
Total.....	275.5	321.2	57.7	56.1	69.8	57.9	16.0	5.0	24.1	5.6	443.1	445.8
Other.....	15.8	27.8	3.8	4.8	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.2	1.3	2.2	22.7	35.8
World total.....	577.8	605.3	159.0	153.5	119.4	104.1	45.2	20.3	35.9	9.7	937.3	892.9
Percentage of change from 1956-57												
		+4.8		-3.5		-12.8		-55.1		-73.0		-4.9

1/ Season begins July 1 in Australia, New Zealand and Union of South Africa, and October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Australia

Shipments of raw wool from Australia during the first half of the 1957-58 season were 5 percent above the same period a year earlier. There was a sharp drop in exports to the United Kingdom but increased trade with the Continent more than countered this. Exports to the United States continued at about the same low level.

Production of wool in Australia in 1957-58 is now estimated at 1,463 million pounds, grease basis, compared with the July estimate of 1,603 million pounds and the 1956-57 output of 1,565 million pounds. The prolonged drought in 1957 necessitated a downward revision of the production estimate. Since production was expected to increase when the wool offerings were originally scheduled, a large part of the clip was sold during the first half of the season.

Stocks of wool in store awaiting sale at the end of January were 20 percent lower than a year earlier. Thus it would appear that exports during the second half of the season will be down substantially.

Wool prices in Australia in mid-March were almost 30 percent below a year ago.

New Zealand

Exports of raw wool from New Zealand during July-December were down slightly from the previous year, but still high in relation to other years. Shipments to the United Kingdom were down, but exports to the other major destinations--France, United States and West Germany--increased slightly.

Wool production in New Zealand is estimated at 497 million pounds, grease basis, or about 1 percent above the 491 million pounds produced in 1956-57.

No significant stocks were carried over. Local consumption has increased this season as a result of import restrictions on finished wool goods, but will continue small in relation to production.

Wool prices have dropped sharply in line with world prices and have reached the minimum floor price for some types. The average support price this season is 38 cents per pound, but each type has its own floor price. The New Zealand Wool Commission has bought only about 1,000 bales.

Union of South Africa

Shipments of raw wool during July-December from the Union of South Africa were down 13 percent from a year earlier. France replaced the United Kingdom as the principal destination of South African wool exports, but shipments to both countries declined. There was a very sharp rise in exports to the Soviet Union. Shipments to the U.S.S.R. were over 6 times as great as in the previous season. Exports to West Germany and Japan were also down, while trade with Italy increased slightly.

The decline in exports this season follows a drop of equal proportions in wool offered for sale during the first half of the season. Adverse weather--including severe drought in the Cape Midlands and Eastern Cape areas, and too much rain which delayed shearing in some other areas--reduced offerings. Lower wool prices were also a factor in the delay of sales as some growers reportedly have held back their wool, hoping for an upturn.

Wool production for 1957-58 previously was estimated at 320 million pounds, including Karakul, by the South African Wool Board. The present estimate is 2 percent less, or about 314 million pounds.

Stocks of unsold wool in warehouses at the close of 1957 were slightly higher than the previous year, and stocks of sold wool awaiting shipment were considerably higher. Total stocks of wool in warehouses on December 31, 1957, were 233,000 bales compared with 213,000 bales a year earlier.

Argentina and Uruguay

There were several similarities in the wool situation in Argentina and Uruguay during October-December of the 1957-58 season. Relatively large carryover stocks and estimated production increases resulted in prospects for an increased supply available for export in both countries this season. Exports, however, from Argentina and Uruguay were down 55 and 73 percent, respectively, from the first quarter of the previous season.

Exports this season have been hindered by the disagreements over the "aforo" systems of the two countries. The aforo value is a fixed minimum price for an exported item set by the government to determine the amount of exchange that must be surrendered by the exporter to the official exchange market.

These aforos were generally above world wool prices when the season opened in October. This made it unprofitable for exporters to sell their wool abroad. In an attempt to force the government to reduce the aforos, growers refused to sell their wool. Some revisions were made, but because of the decline in world prices these were ineffective in promoting exports.

Recent measures may have been more effective in stimulating wool sales. In Argentina aforos have been lowered, and the 8 percent sales tax and 5 percent exchange retention have been abolished. In Uruguay aforos were also reduced. Shipments of raw wool from Montevideo in January totaled 14.2 million pounds, of which 3.6 million pounds went to the Soviet Union.

Wool production in Argentina is estimated at 409 million pounds in 1957-58, compared with 392 million pounds the previous season. The present Uruguayan clip is estimated at 209 million pounds compared with 174 million pounds produced last season.

SMALLER WORLD BARLEY AND
OATS PRODUCTION CONFIRMED

Forecasts of a smaller 1957 world crop of barley and oats than in 1956 have been confirmed by the latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Present estimates place the two crops combined at 139 million short tons, about the same as the previous estimate in Foreign Crops and Markets of January 23, 1958. At that figure, the total for the 2 crops is about 7 percent less than the record 1956 production but is still above the 1950-54 average.

Reduction from the 1956 record level was divided almost equally between barley and oats. The estimated total of 3,120 million bushels of barley, though 8 percent less than in 1956, is 16 percent above the 1950-54 average. Indicated reductions from the 1956 outturn were greatest in the Soviet Union, Europe, and Africa. Lesser reductions in Australia and South America were offset by increases in North America and Asia. Barley acreage in 1957 was less than in 1956 and yields were also smaller.

World production of oats is now estimated at 4,000 million bushels. This is 6 percent less than in 1956 and 4 percent below the 1950-54 average. Compared with last year's harvest, the bulk of the reduction was in Europe, the Soviet Union and Australia. Reductions in South America, Africa and Asia were moderate, and the total for North America shows little change from the 1956 figure. World acreage of oats was relatively very small - 118 million acres compared with 122 million a year ago and the 1950-54 acreage of 129 million.

North America's barley production of 664 million bushels is slightly larger than in 1956 because of an increase of 59 million bushels in the U.S. crop. This more than offset a reduction in Canada and a slight decrease in Mexico. The smaller outturn in Canada was due to low yields - 23.4 bushels per acre compared with 32.1 last year. Canada's barley acreage was a million acres more than in 1956. U.S. acreage was also larger, and yields were about the same as the 1956 average.

Production of oats in North America was 1,696 million bushels, virtually the same as the production a year earlier. A substantial increase in the United States balanced a sharp cut in Canada's outturn. The U.S. production of 1,308 million bushels was 145 million bushels more than the small crop a year ago. Both acreage and yields were up in 1957. The average of 37.4 bushels per acre was second to the all-time record of 38.3 bushels in 1955.

Canada's production of 385 million bushels of oats compares with the 524 million bushels produced last year. Yields averaged only 34.9 bushels per acre compared with 44.8 bushels in 1956. Acreage was slightly less than the large acreage last year.

Continent and country	Acreage 2/			Yield per acre 3/			Production		
	Average	1955	1956	Average	1955	1956	Average	1955	1956
	1950-54			1950-54			1950-54		
North America:									
Canada	1,000	1,000	1,000					1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres					bushels	bushels
7,919	9,932	8,390	9,403	28.8	25.4	32.1	23.4	228,334	252,385
Mexico	573	596	609	13.2	14.8	14.8	13.2	7,554	8,810
United States	10,173	14,564	12,940	27.8	27.5	29.1	29.0	283,026	401,225
Estimated total 5/	18,670	25,090	21,940	27.8	26.4	29.9	26.6	519,000	662,000
								655,000	664,000
Europe:									
Austria	363		416	36.6	41.2	42.5	42.2	13,288	15,880
Belgium	213	202	224	58.0	63.8	59.1	63.8	12,344	12,880
Denmark	1,390	1,509	1,599	63.7	67.0	69.0	65.8	88,490	101,050
Finland	358	439	477	30.5	27.4	27.8	30.3	10,904	12,040
France	2,713	3,245	5,659	32.9	37.8	48.6	41.3	89,372	122,650
Germany, West	1,733	1,925	2,103	47.5	49.6	50.5	53.4	82,320	95,500
Greece	523	518	509	49.6	19.9	20.8	23.5	10,424	10,310
Ireland	174	213	236	51.2	53.9	62.1	58.8	8,910	11,480
Italy	619	602	585	21.1	22.3	21.6	24.0	13,057	13,400
Netherlands	183	173	182	60.4	70.0	68.8	75.2	11,048	12,110
Norway	164	250	269	44.8	38.5	50.8	46.4	7,350	9,620
Portugal	382	373	381	15.1	10.5	11.0	14.2	5,780	3,900
Spain	3,903	3,800	3,892	22.8	20.8	18.3	22.8	88,830	78,920
Sweden	352	526	592	42.2	35.6	47.5	39.5	14,850	18,740
Switzerland	53	55	79	48.7	52.7	55.3	51.1	2,581	2,900
United Kingdom	2,051	2,296	2,323	48.9	59.7	56.3	52.6	100,326	137,010
Estimated total West Europe 5/	15,190	16,530	19,550	36.9	39.9	42.9	42.2	560,000	659,000
Bulgaria	630	714	640		30.3	25.0		18,000	21,630
Czechoslovakia	1,556	1,585	1,650	33.5	37.2	39.1		52,100	59,000
Germany, East	5/ 775	833	796	36.9	40.7	38.4		28,600	33,900
Hungary	1,080	1,000	1,005	27.3				29,500	
Poland	2,072	2,030	1,920	27.3				50,400	56,900
Rumania	1,235	965	750	24.3	28.0	27.1		19,500	
Yugoslavia		835	872	1.008				16,600	17,910
Estimated total East Europe 5/	8,360	7,980	7,650	25.7	30.2	28.9	31.4	215,000	241,000
Estimated total all Europe 5/	23,550	24,510	27,200	32.9	36.7	39.0	38.8	775,000	900,000
								1,060,000	1,020,000

U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 1/.....	22,500	24,500	27,400	23,000	15.6	18.4	17.9	16.3	350,000	450,000	525,000	375,000
Asia:												
Iran	1,956	-	-	-	18.8	-	-	-	36,798	40,420	36,740	45,930
Iraq	2,374	-	-	-	14.9	-	-	-	35,270	41,300	46,670	59,930
Lebanon	35	28	28	28	19.0	26.4	16.1	19.6	664	740	760	740
Syria	848	1,000	1,630	-	14.5	6.9	15.5	-	12,292	6,890	25,260	22,970
Turkey	5,540	6,523	6,454	6,523	23.2	20.7	20.1	24.5	128,380	135,000	130,000	160,000
China, Mainland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325,000	-	-	-
India	7,978	8,309	8,382	8,594	14.6	16.1	15.3	14.9	116,414	133,930	128,290	128,050
Japan	2,400	2,460	2,425	2,307	37.7	40.3	39.7	38.9	90,439	99,020	96,380	89,690
Korea, South	1,710	1,900	1,950	2,050	14.6	13.2	17.4	15.1	25,000	25,000	34,000	31,000
Pakistan	567	568	580	543	11.6	11.6	11.9	11.4	6,600	6,580	6,910	6,210
Estimated total 5/	41,070	43,710	44,450	44,730	13.6	19.0	18.9	19.3	805,000	830,000	840,000	865,000
Africa:												
Algeria	3,102	3,356	3,300	-	12.1	9.7	14.0	-	37,494	32,470	46,210	25,980
Egypt	128	141	137	138	38.9	41.3	43.2	43.3	4,976	5,820	5,920	5,970
Morocco 8/	4,934	4,830	4,655	2,960	14.4	11.9	15.4	7.6	71,220	57,330	71,660	22,590
Tunisia	1,295	700	1,799	1,826	6.9	5.3	4.0	6.1	8,920	3,700	7,160	11,180
Union of South Africa	421	-	-	-	18.2	-	-	-	2,200	-	1,000	750
Estimated total 5/	11,110	11,000	11,930	10,110	13.1	10.9	13.0	8.9	145,000	120,000	155,000	90,000
South America:												
Argentina	1,587	2,050	2,501	2,470	24.8	21.3	25.1	20.2	39,320	43,680	62,670	50,000
Chile	136	152	149	149	31.7	30.3	30.2	29.7	4,316	4,600	4,500	4,430
Peru	440	507	510	-	20.4	18.8	14.4	-	8,980	9,530	7,350	7,670
Uruguay	81	81	140	-	16.6	16.4	14.6	-	1,344	1,330	2,050	1,550
Estimated total 5/	2,820	3,470	3,940	3,890	22.0	19.9	22.1	19.2	62,000	69,000	87,000	74,500
Oceania:												
Australia	1,412	1,900	2,200	2,000	22.2	22.9	23.9	15.0	31,351	43,440	52,500	30,000
New Zealand	53	49	52	-	45.1	43.1	50.0	-	2,388	2,110	2,600	-
Total Oceania	1,465	1,949	2,252	2,050	23.0	23.4	24.5	15.7	33,739	45,550	55,100	32,250
Estimated world total 5/.....	121,180	134,230	141,110	135,040	22.2	22.9	23.9	23.1	2,690,000	3,075,000	3,375,000	3,120,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1957 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which began late in 1957 and ended early in 1958. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production, are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 6/ Average of less than 5 years. 7/ Production data are tentative unofficial estimates. 8/ Excludes data for countries formerly known as Spanish Morocco and Tangier.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and related information.

OATS: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest,
average 1950-54, annual 1955-57 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/			Yield per acre 3/			Production			
	Average :	1955	1956	Average :	1955	1956	Average :	1955	1956	1957 1/
	1950-54			1950-54			1950-54			
	acres	acres	acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
North America:										
Canada 5/	10,827	11,178	11,706	11,017	38.2	44.8	34.9	414,086	407,783	524,445
Mexico	206	217	219	-	18.2	22.3	-	3,759	4,850	4,886
United States	37,928	39,243	33,706	34,984	33.9	38.3	34.5	1,285,417	1,503,074	1,163,160
Estimated total 6/	48,960	50,640	45,630	46,210	34.8	37.8	37.1	1,703,000	1,916,000	1,693,000
Europe:										
Austria	539	468	461	454	44.8	53.5	51.6	24,156	25,060	25,800
Belgium	405	368	389	366	80.2	90.1	85.7	32,462	33,140	33,340
Denmark	656	657	628	588	89.5	90.5	89.6	58,740	59,450	58,700
Finland	1,143	1,153	1,146	1,023	47.1	38.5	39.6	53,801	44,350	49,600
France	5,596	5,132	5,626	4,060	43.3	48.9	56.4	242,298	250,750	317,200
Germany, West	2,681	2,394	2,350	2,237	67.3	71.3	71.9	180,322	170,680	168,890
Greece	366	365	364	373	26.1	29.6	27.7	9,558	10,800	10,100
Ireland	613	545	525	453	63.2	72.8	71.5	38,744	39,690	37,520
Italy	1,140	1,071	1,046	1,037	32.9	33.7	33.4	37,516	36,060	34,890
Luxembourg	52	50	50	50	50.0	59.4	58.0	2,602	2,970	2,900
Netherlands	368	420	377	392	87.5	95.1	88.2	32,210	39,960	33,260
Norway	187	169	164	150	62.7	46.4	76.6	11,726	7,850	12,560
Portugal	774	770	746	776	12.2	7.4	8.9	9,424	5,700	6,650
Spain	1,520	1,511	1,251	-	23.2	28.3	24.9	35,306	42,700	39,615
Sweden	1,225	1,260	1,342	1,294	48.8	32.6	59.0	59,744	41,130	79,170
Switzerland	64	59	80	58	77.3	78.6	77.0	4,946	6,160	4,250
United Kingdom	2,854	2,581	2,564	2,350	65.4	73.5	67.9	186,774	189,630	174,020
Estimated total West Europe 6/	20,180	18,970	19,110	17,040	50.5	53.0	56.4	1,020,000	1,005,000	1,078,000
Bulgaria	398	395	373	-	28.9	27.8	24.9	11,500	11,000	9,300
Czechoslovakia	1,380	1,300	1,330	-	44.2	51.5	52.6	61,000	67,000	70,000
Germany, East	1,360	1,320	1,100	-	52.2	56.8	55.5	71,000	75,000	61,000
Hungary	355	300	295	425	31.0	-	-	11,000	-	-
Poland	4,130	4,055	3,940	-	35.8	38.8	39.5	148,000	157,500	155,500
Rumania	1,175	950	840	-	22.9	-	-	26,900	-	-
Yugoslavia	-	795	922	993	-	24.1	24.2	19,420	19,150	22,320
Estimated total East Europe 6/	9,710	9,150	8,830	9,410	36.0	40.4	39.9	350,000	370,000	352,000
Estimated total all Europe 6/	29,890	28,120	27,940	26,450	45.8	48.9	51.2	1,370,000	1,375,000	1,430,000

U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) g/.....	40,000	36,500	37,300	34,600	20.9	24.7	23.5	23.1	835,000	900,000	875,000	800,000
Asia:												
Syria	22	-	-	-	24.3	-	-	-	535:	-	-	-
Turkey	808	912	919	949	30.9	26.9	27.2	31.6	24,958:	24,530:	25,000:	30,000
China, Mainland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70,000:	-	-	-
Japan	209	227	208	184	47.6	50.4	53.3	67.4	9,948:	11,440:	11,090:	12,400
Estimated total b/	4,400	4,750	4,740	4,640	24.3	23.2	23.2	22.6	107,000:	110,000:	110,000:	105,000
Africa:												
Algeria	428	310	309	-	20.9	19.0	21.6	-	8,940:	5,900:	6,680:	4,800
Morocco 9/	140	70	62	35	28.4	30.1	25.6	16.3	3,978:	2,110:	1,590:	570
Tunisia	59	-	-	-	18.2	-	-	-	1,074:	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	680	-	-	-	12.3	-	-	-	8,350:	-	3,000:	2,500
Estimated total b/	1,350	920	720	680	17.0	16.3	18.1	14.7	23,000:	15,000:	13,000:	10,000
South America:												
Argentina	1,655	1,617	2,362	2,370	34.0	30.8	33.3	28.3	56,284:	49,810:	78,540:	67,000
Chile	238	240	254	262	28.6	30.8	30.4	29.8	6,800:	7,400:	7,710:	7,820
Uruguay	145	123	190	-	19.4	22.8	20.2	-	2,816:	2,800:	3,830:	3,000
Estimated total b/	2,090	2,040	2,870	2,880	32.1	29.9	32.1	27.8	67,000:	61,000:	92,000:	80,000
Oceania:												
Australia	2,325	3,400	2,900	2,480	18.2	19.9	18.3	11.7	42,252:	67,500:	53,120:	29,000
New Zealand	37	42	44	-	62.4	57.4	61.8	-	2,308:	2,410:	2,720:	-
Total Oceania	2,362	3,442	2,944	2,482	18.9	20.3	19.0	12.5	44,560:	69,910:	55,840:	31,500
Estimated world total b/	129,050	126,410	122,140	117,980	32.2	35.2	35.0	33.9	4,150,000:	4,445,000:	4,270,000:	4,000,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1957 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which began late in 1957 and ended early in 1958. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Production and yield reported in bushels of 34 pounds. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Average of less than 5 years. 8/ Production data are tentative unofficial estimates. 9/ Excludes data for countries formerly known as Spanish Morocco and Tangier.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and related information.

Production of these grains in Western Europe was much smaller than in 1956. The reduction was especially sharp in oats; the 1957 total of 895 million bushels contrasts with 1,078 million in 1956. A substantial cut in acreage, together with smaller yields in most countries, accounted for the reduction. The largest single change was in France, where production was 41 percent less than in 1956. A sharp cut from the abnormally large acreage last year and substantially smaller yields this year account for the large reduction.

Oats acreage in Western Europe was 2.1 million acres less than in 1956. France's acreage in oats dropped about 1.6 million acres. Reductions in a number of other countries of the area were partly offset by gains in a few countries, especially in the United Kingdom.

Barley production in Western Europe is estimated at 766 million bushels. This is 73 million bushels less than in 1956. The reduction is due to a cut in acreage. The acreage reduction was especially marked in France where a large part of that country's damaged wheat acreage was shifted to spring barley last year. That brought the barley acreage to 5.7 million acres in 1956, an unprecedented level. Barley yields in Western Europe in 1957 were only slightly less than the good yields in 1956.

Production of these grains in Eastern Europe is larger than the small 1956 harvest there. The barley crop is now estimated at 254 million bushels, compared with 221 million bushels a year earlier. Acreage was larger and yields higher than in 1956 for most countries of the area.

The area's crop of oats is estimated at 385 million bushels, 33 million larger than in 1956. Most of the increase is attributed to increased acreage. A total acreage of 9.4 million acres compares with 8.8 million a year earlier and the 1950-54 average of 9.7 million. Yields averaged only slightly above the 1956 yields.

A substantial reduction in the Soviet Union's acreage in these grains and an indicated drop in yields bring tentative estimates of production to the lowest level of recent years. The reduction is especially marked for barley with 1957 production estimated to be about 375 million bushels, compared with 525 a year earlier. Oats production of about 800 million bushels compares with an estimated 875 million bushels in 1956.

Asia's production of barley is estimated at 865 million bushels, 25 million above the 1956 total. The largest single gain is in Turkey, where an increase of 30 million bushels is reported. Substantial increases reported for Iran and Iraq were offset by reductions in other countries of the area. Production of oats in Asia is estimated at 105 million bushels, slightly less than in 1956.

Barley production of 90 million bushels in Africa is about 40 percent less than the large 1956 crop. Sharp reductions are reported for both Algeria and Morocco, which together normally account for about 75 percent of that continent's total. Barley acreage was smaller in each of the countries, especially in Morocco, and yields were well below average. Production of oats was about 10 million bushels, slightly less than in 1956.

South America's production of these grains was moderately lower than in 1956. Barley production is estimated at 75 million bushels compared with the large harvest of 87 million a year earlier. Lower yields in Argentina account for most of the decline. Production of oats is estimated at 80 million bushels compared with 92 million in 1956 and the 1950-54 average of 67 million. A drop in Argentina's crop is the only change of significance.

Sharply reduced crops of barley and oats in Australia bring Oceania's totals to the lowest point of recent years. Extended drought over the eastern part of Australia reduced all grain crops to a very low level. Barley production is estimated at 30 million bushels compared with 52 million in 1956. Yields averaged 15 bushels per acre, compared with 23.9 a year earlier. Production of oats was 29 million, compared with 53 million in 1956.

WORLD HOG NUMBERS CONTINUE TO RISE

World hog numbers continued to increase in 1957 and set a new record high of 386 million head. This was more than 2 percent greater than a year earlier and 10 percent more than the 1951-55 average.

During 1957, hog numbers rose 9 percent in the U.S.S.R., 5 percent in Western Europe, and 3 percent in Eastern Europe. The increases in North America, South America, and Asia were about one percent in each. There was little change in Africa but moderate decreases in Australia and New Zealand.

Hog numbers have increased sharply during the past few years in South America, Europe and the U.S.S.R. Official estimates place hog numbers in the U.S.S.R. on January 1, 1958 at 55 percent above the 1951-55 average. Numbers in South America have increased 22 percent, in Eastern Europe 20 percent, and in Western Europe 15 percent. Numbers in Oceania are 8 percent above the 1951-55 average and in Africa 6 percent. Numbers in North America, however, declined about one percent. Probably hog numbers in Asia are also below the 1951-55 average because numbers in Mainland China are below a recent peak reached in 1954.

HOGS: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58; human population and number of hogs per 1,000 inhabitants, average 1951-55

Countries	Month of estimate	Hog numbers				Human population average 1951-55 3/	Number hogs per 1,000 people average 1951-55
		Average 1951-55	1956	1957 2/	1958 2/		
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands		
NORTH AMERICA:							
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	5,093	5,981	4,561	5,160	14,822	344
Mexico	Spring	6,670	7,900	8,220	8,400	28,083	238
United States	Jan. 1	54,346	55,173	51,703	51,559	162,775	334
Total Canada, Mexico, U.S. and Possessions		66,290	69,213	64,643	65,278	205,824	322
El Salvador	Oct. 1/	309	301	---	---	2,055	150
Guatemala		421	362	---	---	3,069	137
Honduras		4/ 563	625	---	---	1,563	360
Nicaragua		4/ 262	330	330	---	1,166	225
Total Central America		1,878	1,928	1,935	1,700	9,677	194
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	1,421	1,395	1,725	1,750	5,830	244
Dominican Republic		1,113	1,414	---	---	2,359	472
Total Caribbean		3,372	3,645	3,975	4,000	15,004	225
Total North America		71,540	74,786	70,553	70,978	230,505	310
SOUTH AMERICA:							
Argentina	June 30	4/ 3,846	4,011	3,497	---	18,389	209
Brazil	Dec. 31 1/	30,611	38,606	40,000	---	55,803	549
Chile	June 1	707	640	---	---	6,455	109
Colombia	Jan.	2,258	1,455	---	---	12,117	187
Ecuador		4/ 676	---	---	---	3,489	194
Peru		4/ 1,292	1,250	---	---	9,040	143
Uruguay	May	4/ 262	255	---	---	2,534	103
Total South America		41,708	49,767	50,622	51,023	118,600	352
EUROPE:							
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	2,623	2,933	2,727	2,916	6,958	377
Belgium	Jan. 1	1,328	1,441	1,370	1,332	8,924	149
Denmark	Dec. 31 1/	4,003	4,331	4,777	5,294	4,370	916
Finland	June 15	461	435	---	---	4,142	111
France	Oct. 1 1/	7,225	7,729	7,728	8,063	42,659	169
Germany, West 5/	Dec. 3 1/	13,086	14,593	14,408	15,418	52,172	251
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	603	621	638	650	7,811	77
Ireland	Jan.	708	672	741	879	2,940	240
Italy	Dec. 31 1/	3,979	3,670	3,863	---	47,542	84
Luxembourg	June	6/ 118	114	---	---	304	388
Netherlands	Dec. 1/	2,206	2,448	2,555	2,757	10,501	210
Norway	June 20	411	507	456	---	3,360	122
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 2,000	---	---	---	8,621	232
Spain	Apr.	4,950	---	---	---	28,529	174
Sweden	Apr.	1,483	1,573	1,875	---	7,168	207
Switzerland	Apr.	981	1,159	1,160	1,200	4,869	201
United Kingdom	Dec. 1/	5,304	5,974	6,065	6,597	50,622	104
Total West Europe		51,490	56,203	56,431	59,031	291,960	176
Bulgaria	Dec. 1/	1,193	1,413	1,469	---	7,398	161
Czechoslovakia	Jan. 1	4,380	5,285	5,369	---	12,816	342
Germany, East	Dec. 1 1/	7,594	9,030	8,320	---	18,172	419
Hungary	Mar. 1	4,857	6,056	4,996	---	9,559	508
Poland	June 30	9,501	11,561	12,300	---	26,266	362
Rumania	Jan.	3,364	4,950	5,000	---	16,862	200
Yugoslavia	Jan. 15	4,307	4,655	3,725	4,400	17,083	252
Total East Europe		35,221	42,971	41,200	42,441	109,463	322
Total Europe		86,711	99,174	97,631	101,472	401,423	216
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	28,660	34,000	40,800	44,300	207,000	138

HOGS: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58; human population and number of hogs per 1,000 inhabitants, average 1951-55 (Continued)

Countries	Month of estimate	Hog numbers				Human population average 1951-55 3/	Number hogs per 1,000 people average 1951-55
		Average 1951-55	1956	1957 2/	1958 2/		
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands		
AFRICA:							
Algeria 7/.....	Nov. 20 1/	97	---	---	---	9,297	10
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31 1/	19	15	16	---	3,629	5
Total North Africa.....		321	208	211	211	76,631	4
Angola.....	Dec. 1/	250	270	275	280	4,205	48
Belgian Congo & Ruanda Urundi....		4/ 382	402	383	400	16,213	24
French West Africa.....		300	---	---	---	17,435	17
Madagascar 7/.....	Dec. 31 1/	249	---	---	---	4,630	54
Rhodesia and Nyasaland.....	Dec. 31 1/	227	216	227	---	6,708	34
Total Central Africa.....		2,510	2,747	2,760	2,798	96,222	26
Union of South Africa.....	Aug. 31	4/ 1,220	---	---	---	13,183	93
Total South Africa.....		1,280	1,333	1,340	1,347	14,759	87
Total Africa.....		4,111	4,288	4,311	4,356	187,612	22
ASIA:							
Total South-West Asia.....		151	149	156	163	70,100	2
China, Mainland 8/.....		93,875	84,400	---	---	582,603	161
Vietnam, North.....		528	---	---	---	10,880	49
Total East Central Asia.....		94,503	85,053	85,053	85,053	602,310	157
Burma.....	Mar.	520	---	---	---	19,050	27
Cambodia.....		692	---	---	---	3,050	227
China, Taiwan.....	Dec. 1/	2,437	2,799	---	---	8,261	295
India.....	4/ 4,065	---	---	---	---	372,004	11
Indonesia.....	Jan.	1,196	1,469	---	---	79,740	15
Japan.....	Feb.	781	1,170	1,546	1,700	86,720	9
Korea, South.....	Dec. 1/	446	1,203	---	---	21,371	21
Laos.....		172	---	---	---	1,260	137
Malaya.....		336	---	---	---	5,706	59
Philippines.....	Jan.	4,863	6,208	---	---	79,911	61
Vietnam.....		4/ 875	---	---	---	15,000	58
Total South and East Asia.....		20,653	24,402	25,618	26,739	767,300	27
Total Asia.....		115,307	109,604	110,827	111,955	1,439,700	80
OCEANIA:							
Australia.....	Mar. 31	1,129	1,166	1,325	1,200	8,812	128
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	618	690	695	---	2,044	302
Total Oceania.....		1,895	2,012	2,176	2,056	13,000	146
TOTAL WORLD.....		349,932	373,681	376,920	386,140	2,597,840	135

1/ Census or estimate for year shown except that end of year (October-December) is included under following year for comparison and totals. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ FAO estimates; for some countries data are for 1953. 4/ Average 2 to 4 years. 5/ Excludes West Berlin. 6/ One year only. 7/ Number taxed only. 8/ Official figures; may be overestimate of actual numbers. Communist estimate includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang & Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia.

Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of U.S. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service officers, results of office research and related information. Estimated totals, include allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. Foreign Agricultural Service 1958.

A special study has been made of the number of hogs per 1,000 people in the world. In the 1951-55 period there were 135 hogs per 1,000 inhabitants, that is, 350 million hogs divided among 2,598 million people. The number of hogs per 1,000 people ranged from only 2 in Southwest Asia and 4 in North Africa to a high of 916 in Denmark, the world's chief pork exporter. Communist China, with a population of some 583 million and the largest number of hogs for any country (94 million--1951-55 average) had 161 hogs per 1,000 people. U.S.S.R. had 138 hogs per 1,000 people. The United States had 334 hogs per 1,000 persons.

The largest exporters of pork might be expected to have the largest numbers of hogs per 1,000 inhabitants. However, this is not always true. Other leading countries in the number of hogs per 1,000 people were Dominican Republic (472), Brazil (549), East Germany (419) and Hungary (508). The first two are not large exporters of pork because of the low production of pork per hog. However, East Germany and Hungary have been exporters of hogs and pork in former years.

Increased hog numbers in Europe in recent years have been a continuation of a sharp upward gain which began at the end of World War II. However, hog numbers in a number of Western European countries are probably reaching the limits of expansion under conditions of "ordinary" profits to producers. Last year, pork prices in Western Europe dropped sharply and this has had some effect in checking hog production in 1958. Special programs for increasing hog production in the U.S.S.R. and in Eastern Europe, and the continuation of large grain production have made large gains in hog numbers possible. Numbers in the United States decreased moderately in the past 2 years. An increase in numbers is probable in 1958, as feed grain supplies are particularly large. Numbers in Canada began increasing in 1957 and a further increase is likely this year.

Hog numbers in Brazil continue to show steady gains and the increase has more than offset decreases in a number of other South American countries where conditions have not been as favorable to hog producers. Relatively high prices for grains in Argentina have held down hog production. Production in Peru has declined as a result of drought.

Large hog slaughter in Western Europe this year will reduce the need for imported pork and lard and will increase U. S. competition for exports to other world markets. Larger production in Eastern Europe, as well as the efforts to increase foreign exchange earnings, is encouraging exports of hogs and pork to Western Europe. Increases in hog numbers in Asia since 1956, probably have not kept pace with the growth of the human population.

Hog slaughter in Argentina will be fairly small in 1958 and will prevent large exports. However, record high hog prices are encouraging a sharp increase in hog numbers at the present time and may result in larger pork exports in 1959 and 1960.

Although Soviet program to increase hog numbers has been effective, the reported 44.3 million on farms January 1, 1958, was still considerably smaller than the 51.6 million on U.S. farms on that date.

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS STILL INCREASING

World cattle numbers continued to increase in 1957. The world total is now about 972 million and a new record high. This is about 1 percent more (11 million head) than a year earlier and 7 percent (66 million head) above the 1951-55 average. 1/

The 11 million head increase in world cattle numbers in 1957 was the result of a 5.3 million increase in the U.S.S.R., an increase of 2.7 million in Asia, one million in South America, one million in Western Europe and one million in Africa. Numbers in both Oceania and North America declined slightly. There was no great change in total numbers in Eastern Europe during the year.

Compared with their 1951-55 averages, cattle numbers have increased 20 million head in Asia. Most of the increase has been in China and Southeast Asia. Since 1951-55 numbers have increased 11 million in Africa, mostly Central and North Africa. The gain in South America has been 13 million, in North America 7.5 million, in Western Europe 3 million, in East Europe one million, and Oceania one million.

Cattle production has expanded considerably in the tropical and semi-tropical areas. During the past several years there have been increases in numbers in Central America, the Caribbean, Central Africa and some countries in North Africa. Cattle are likely to continue to increase in these areas which have a large potential for expansion. Africa now has more cattle than Europe (excluding U.S.S.R.).

A significant occurrence in the world cattle situation is the decrease in cattle numbers in several of the leading beef exporting countries. Numbers in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Uruguay are below their recent peaks. However, numbers in Mexico and Denmark continue to rise. Cattle numbers in the 6 countries now are probably 4 million head less than the 95 million total in 1956 but are still around 1.5 million greater than the 1951-55 average.

1/ Water buffalo are included with cattle in this summary. The world totals for cattle numbers published by the Foreign Agricultural Service prior to this report are not completely comparable because of the adoption of official figures for Communist China for the first time this year. Past estimates of cattle numbers published by FAS have been based on a restricted territorial definition of Mainland China. The official Communist data is based on a larger number of provinces and includes all areas presently controlled by the Peiping Government.

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58; human population and number of cattle per 1,000 inhabitants, average 1951-55

Countries	Month of estimate	Cattle numbers				Human	Number cattle
		Average				population	per 1,000
		1951-55	1956	1957 2/	1958 2/	average	people aver-
	1/					1951-55 3/	age 1951-55
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Number
NORTH AMERICA:							
Canada (Excluding Newfoundland) ..	Dec. 1 1/	8,658	9,666	10,379	10,293	14,822	570
Mexico	Spring	15,320	16,000	16,700	16,900	28,083	546
United States	Jan. 1	91,330	96,804	94,502	93,967	159,742	572
Total Canada, Mexico, U.S. and possessions		115,880	123,057	122,168	121,747	205,824	563
Costa Rica	Mar.	4/ 804	844	873	---	885	908
El Salvador	Oct. 1/	5/ 859	985	---	---	2,055	418
Guatemala		1,133	1,033	---	---	3,069	369
Honduras		5/ 1,146	1,121	---	---	1,563	733
Nicaragua		1,176	1,216	1,328	---	1,166	1,009
Panama	June	5/ 578	594	572	---	864	669
Total Central America		5,710	5,809	5,928	6,027	9,677	590
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	4,362	4,500	5,500	5,700	5,830	748
Dominican Republic		892	---	---	---	2,359	378
Total Caribbean		5,860	5,989	7,020	7,224	15,604	390
Total North America		127,450	134,855	135,116	134,998	230,500	553
SOUTH AMERICA:							
Argentina	June 20	5/ 42,688	46,940	44,203	---	18,389	2,321
Bolivia	June	4/ 2,260	---	---	---	3,125	723
Brazil	Dec. 31 1/	56,215	63,608	65,818	68,120	55,803	1,020
Chile	June 1	2,375	2,450	---	---	6,455	368
Colombia	Jan.	5/ 12,301	12,500	13,390	---	12,117	1,015
Ecuador		5/ 1,238	---	---	---	3,489	355
Paraguay		4,099	4,095	---	---	1,497	2,738
Peru		3,304	---	---	---	9,040	365
Uruguay	May	7,797	7,305	---	---	2,534	3,077
Venezuela	Dec.	5,927	6,200	6,400	---	5,446	1,088
Total South America		138,420	149,987	150,333	151,367	118,600	1,167
EUROPE:							
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	2,303	2,346	2,325	2,296	6,958	331
Belgium	Jan. 1	2,153	2,242	2,300	2,478	8,775	245
Denmark	Dec. 31 1/	2,989	3,082	3,113	3,151	4,370	684
Finland	June 15	1,852	1,827	---	---	4,142	447
France	Oct. 1 1/	16,507	17,572	17,792	17,928	42,659	387
Germany, West 6/	Dec. 3 1/	11,465	11,553	11,815	11,948	52,172	220
Greece 7/	Dec. 31 1/	942	1,032	1,057	1,086	7,811	121
Ireland	Jan.	3,925	4,070	4,022	4,001	2,940	1,335
Italy 7/	Dec. 31 1/	8,657	8,684	8,479	8,644	47,542	182
Luxembourg	June	128	131	---	---	304	421
Netherlands	Dec. 1/	2,733	2,713	2,785	2,872	10,501	260
Norway	June 20	1,177	1,112	1,108	---	3,360	350
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 930	---	---	---	8,621	108
Spain 8/	Apr.	3,077	2,947	---	---	28,529	108
Sweden	June	2,557	2,434	2,462	---	7,168	357
Switzerland	Apr.	1,620	1,645	1,643	1,660	4,869	333
United Kingdom	Dec. 1/	10,133	10,755	10,711	10,831	50,622	200
Total West Europe		73,200	75,130	75,503	76,357	291,960	251
Bulgaria 7/	Dec. 1/	1,896	1,856	1,772	---	7,398	256
Czechoslovakia	Jan. 1	4,249	4,107	4,134	---	12,816	332
Germany, East	Dec. 1 1/	3,785	3,760	3,710	---	18,172	208
Hungary	Mar.	2,108	2,170	1,973	---	9,559	221
Poland	June 30	7,488	8,353	---	---	26,266	285
Rumania 7/	Jan.	4,647	4,800	4,900	---	16,862	276
Yugoslavia 7/	Jan. 15	5,061	5,273	5,006	4,894	17,083	296
Total East Europe		29,630	30,720	30,400	30,490	109,460	271
Total Europe		102,830	105,850	105,903	106,847	401,420	259
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	57,020	58,800	61,400	66,700	207,000	275

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58; human population and number of cattle per 1,000 inhabitants, average 1951-55 (Continued)

Countries	Month of estimate	Cattle numbers				Human population average 1951-55 3/	Number cattle per 1,000 people average 1951-55
		Average 1951-55	1956	1957 2/	1958 2/		
		1/	1/	1/	1/		
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Number
AFRICA:							
Algeria 9/.....	Nov. 20 1/	835:	912:	840:	811:	9,297	90
Egypt 7/.....	Jan. 1	5/ 2,626:	2,765:	---	---	21,945	120
Ethiopia and Eritrea.....		5/ 19,500:	20,000:	---	---	20,000	975
Sudan.....	Dec. 1/	4,227:	6,907:	6,900:	---	8,820	479
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31 1/	448:	502:	491:	544:	3,629	123
Total North Africa.....		32,610	36,153:	36,055:	36,102:	76,630	426
Angola.....	Dec. 1/	1,271:	1,180:	1,214:	1,220:	4,205	302
Belgian Congo & Ruanda Urundi...		5/ 1,773:	1,797:	1,867:	1,900:	16,213	109
Kenya.....	Dec. 1/	6,758:	7,265:	---	---	5,855	1,154
Madagascar 9/.....		6,066:	---	---	---	4,630	1,310
Mozambique.....	Dec. 1/	782:	835:	---	---	5,900	132
Rhodesia and Nyasaland.....	Dec. 31 1/	4,230:	4,450:	4,630:	---	6,708	631
Tanganyika.....	Dec. 1/	6,392:	6,750:	7,000:	---	8,069	792
Uganda.....		2,717:	3,094:	3,232:	---	5,343	509
Total Central Africa.....		52,570:	57,047:	57,942:	58,977:	96,220	547
Bechuanaland.....		1,083:	1,173:	1,236:	---	318	3,406
Union of South Africa.....	Aug. 31	5/ 11,675:	---	---	---	13,183	886
Total South Africa.....		15,230:	15,514:	15,734:	15,900:	14,760	1,032
Total Africa.....		100,140:	108,714:	109,731:	110,979:	187,610	535
ASIA:							
Iran 7/.....		4,646:	---	5,200:	---	20,713	224
Syria 7/.....		459:	474:	505:	---	3,548	129
Turkey (Europe and Asia) 7/.....	Nov. 1 1/	11,577:	12,115:	12,621:	12,706:	22,811	508
Total South-West Asia.....		19,290:	20,226:	20,785:	20,877:	70,100	275
China, Mainland 7/ 10/.....		59,670:	66,748:	---	---	582,603	102
Total East Central Asia 11/.....		61,410:	68,514:	69,514:	70,514:	602,310	102
Burma 7/.....	Mar.	5,666:	---	---	---	19,050	297
Cambodia 7/.....		1,374:	---	---	---	3,050	450
Ceylon.....	May	1,918:	---	---	---	8,162	235
China, Taiwan 7/.....	Dec. 1/	384:	412:	---	---	8,261	46
India 7/.....		201,900:	203,800:	---	---	372,004	543
Indonesia 7/.....		7,576:	7,947:	---	---	79,740	95
Japan.....	Feb.	2,782:	3,216:	3,177:	3,290:	86,720	32
Korea, South.....	Dec. 1/	616:	867:	898:	---	21,371	29
Laos 7/.....		334:	---	---	---	1,260	265
Malaya 7/.....		510:	529:	---	---	5,706	89
Pakistan 7/.....		5/ 37,663:	---	---	---	79,911	471
Philippines 7/.....	Jan.	3,398:	4,267:	---	---	21,047	161
Thailand 7/.....		11,005:	---	---	---	19,562	562
Total South and East Asia.....		277,800:	284,477:	285,860:	287,457:	767,300	362
Total Asia 11/.....		358,500:	373,217:	376,159:	378,848:	1,439,710	249
OCEANIA:							
Australia.....	Mar. 31	15,361:	16,457:	17,257:	16,500:	8,812	1,743
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	5,461:	5,600:	5,360:	---	2,044	2,672
Total Oceania.....		21,180:	22,324:	22,886:	22,069:	13,000	1,629
TOTAL WORLD 11/.....		905,810:	953,747:	961,528:	971,808:	2,527,840	349

1/ Census or estimate for year shown except that end of year (October-December) is included under following year for comparison and totals. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ FAO estimates; for some countries data are shown for 1953. 4/ One year only. 5/ Average 2 to 4 years. 6/ Excludes West Berlin. 7/ Includes buffaloes. 8/ One year old and older. 9/ Number taxed only. 10/ Official figures; may be overestimates of actual numbers. Communist estimates; includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang & Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia. 11/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia.

Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of U.S. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service Officers, results of office research and related information. Estimated totals, include allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. Foreign Agricultural Service 1958.

Official Soviet statistics report the U.S.S.R. cattle population on January 1, 1958, at 66.7 million head. This is still 27.2 million head less than the 94 million on farms in the United States on that date.

Cattle numbers in Asia, which has nearly 40 percent of the world's cattle population, continue to increase but probably at a slower rate than the human population. On the basis of 1951-55 averages, Asia had an average of 249 cattle per 1,000 inhabitants. Many of these animals are work and dairy stock. Cattle production for meat is a minor enterprise in most of these countries and the meat produced is likely to be a by-product of the use of cattle for work or milk. India had about 543 cattle per 1,000 people. This compares with 572 cattle per 1,000 people in the United States and 200 in the United Kingdom.

Several countries of the world have more cattle than people. On the basis of averages for 1951-55 Bechuanaland in Southern Africa had 3.4 cattle per person, Uruguay had 3.1 cattle per person, Paraguay 2.7, New Zealand 2.7, Argentina 2.3 and Australia 1.7. Brazil, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ireland, Kenya and Madagascar had over one head of cattle per person.

Japan has about the smallest number of cattle per person. The average for all Japan in 1951-55 was only 32 cattle per 1,000 inhabitants. Taiwan had only 46 cattle per 1,000 inhabitants.

The Commodity Summaries in this monthly supplementary issue of Foreign Crops and Markets are part of a series of reports on World Crop and Livestock Production and Trade which are released according to a schedule published at the beginning of each calendar year.

The country data are prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. Representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information. The Summaries of Production have been approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics.



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